MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 JULY 1986

Gulf Affairs

Kuwait — The foreign minister disclosed in a statement reported by KUNA that the government ministers have tendered resignations to the prime minister, Crown Prince Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, who will decide on the fate of the government. The agency also cited an Interior Ministry statement announcing the arrest of a number of people suspected of involvement in bomb attacks last year, including the attempt to assassinate the amir.

GCC — Concluding the 19th session of the GCC Ministerial Council in Al-Ta'if, the GCC foreign ministers noted with "regret" that Iran is still insisting on using force in the Gulf war, and that it is not responding to GCC good office efforts. The GCC statement, which was carried by SPA, also condemned the recent explosions in Kuwait, and praised the Saudi king for his efforts to end the dispute between Qatar and Bahrain.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces foiled a 30 June-1 July Iranian offensive aimed at recapturing the city of Mehran, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA, who added that the situation was "stable" although fighting was still continuing. However, Iranian military reports cited by IRNA said that "heavy casualties and damage" were inflicted on the Iraqis during the offensive, and that "a number of crucial points" were captured. As for air activity, an Iranian military communique cited by IRNA stated that Iraqi aircraft bombed the Iranian city of Shadegan 29 June.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the UN secretary general carried by INA, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz warned that Iran's recent surface-to-surface missile strike against the Iraqi city of Kirkuk opened the door wide for the renewal of the war of the cities.

Israel

The government crisis has not yet been settled and solutions are still being sought, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio 1 July. Stressing that ministers cannot be judges, he said the inquiry into the Shin Bet affair must be objective. Peres had earlier told the Knesset in an address reported by the radio that he blames no one from the political echelon in connection with the affair, but the charges must be examined to dispel any doubts. The prime minister stressed that he is personally willing to testify before an inquiry commission, though he noted that the cabinet has not yet decided whether to establish one. Jerusalem television reported that Likud leaders were "highly satisfied" with Peres' remarks to the Knesset, adding that this was probably because the prime minister did not express full support for an inquiry commission. While the television cited remarks by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reaffirming his opposition to an inquiry commission, Jerusalem radio subsequently reported that Shamir's associates say he is willing to contemplate the establishment of a committee empowered to investigate "working procedures" between political and executive levels in light of the Shin Bet affair. Avraham Shalom, the resigning Shin Bet director, told Alignment ministers 28 June that during Shamir's tenure as prime minister, the latter gave Shalom "general approval" to kill terrorists captured during an attack aimed at hostage-taking, according to *Ha'aretz*.

Lebanon

Syrian forces deployed in Sir al-Dinniyah, a small town east of Tripoli, because of tension in the area caused by clashes between the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and the Islamic Unification Movement, Beirut radio reported. As for the security plan in West Beirut, the radio broadcast Prime Minister Rashid Karami's statement that "things are going well," with "encouraging" reports that the plan is being comprehensively implemented. The radio also cited a statement of support for the plan from Hizballah, which was not a party to the agreement announced in Damascus 13 June. Nevertheless, Voice of Lebanon radio stressed that the plan still faces the obstacle of stationing security forces in the areas that were the scene of violent clashes between Amal and the Palestinians.

Syria

Al-Ba'th commented on President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with U.S. Congressman Robert Dornan in an editorial reported by Damascus radio, asserting that the U.S. congressional request for Syrian assistance in securing the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon reflects the fact that "ordinary Americans" continue to attach "great hope" to Syria's role in such problems after it has "proven its credibility on more than one occasion." Affirming that Syria places a high value on "humanitarian considerations," *Al-Ba'th said Al-asad told the U.S. envoy that Syria always* makes a distinction between U.S. practices in the Middle East and the subject of American hostages.

Libya

The Tripoli headquarters of 'Abdallah 'Abid al-Sanusi, a member of the former Libyan ruling family, was "abolished" by the "revolutionary force," according to JANA, which added that the step was taken in order to wipe out "remnants" of the former regime.

Reporting on the Libyan internal situation, a Cairo *Al-Ahram* report cited by MENA asserted that "another mutiny" took place in the Libyan Armed Forces "several days ago," quoting "eyewitness" accounts that shots were heard inside Bab al-'Aziziyah camp.

OPEC

A press release carried by OPECNA at the conclusion of the 25-30 June OPEC conference in Brioni noted that the conferees thoroughly discussed, among other things, "the critical market situation and ways and means to restore stability to the market." The conference decided to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on 28 July in order to allow delegates time to consult with their respective governments.

DRA

A DRA diplomat in Karachi was "kidnapped" 25 June by the "direct arrangement" of the CIA, according to Kabul radio, which also implicated the Pakistani CID in the action.

On the internal situation in Afghanistan, Western diplomats in Islamabad stated that the Mujahidin shot down a DRA military aircraft near Kabul 25 June, killing some 100 Afghan soldiers who were aboard, AFP reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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CIA Arranges Kidnapping of Envoy in Karachi

LD301620 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] A source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in reply to a question by a BIA correspondent in relation to the disappearance of Baz Mohammad (?Rahyab) from his post in Karachi as second secretary of the Afghan general counsel and official in charge, said: On 25 June this year we received a report that Baz Mohammad (?Rahyab), the second secretary of the DRA General Counsel and official in charge in Karachi, had suddenly disappeared and has not been seen at his post.

According to the proof received [as heard] and the investigations, he and his family were kidnapped on the same day by direct arrangement of the CIA espionage organization and have been sent to an unknown place. Also, proof shows that, contrary to accepted norms and relations between states, the Pakistan's CID espionage organization took part in this action.

TANJUG Cites Report on Demonstrations in Kabul

LD301524 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1204 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Islamabad, June 30 (TANJUG) — The Afghan authorities have ordered a forcible mobilization in Kabul which prompted demonstrations in the capital during which several persons were killed, claims the Afghan insurgent information service AAP, quoting sources from the interior of the country.

The sources say that government and Soviet troops surrounded the university campus and several other institutions of higher education in Kabul on June 15 and took 7,600 students in an unknown direction.

The following day, demonstrations against the forcible mobilization of students broke out in Kabul, the sources say, adding that security forces opened fire on demonstrators in front of the Qila Jangi military complex, killing several persons.

Other sources say that the Kabul Government issued a decree that every student do three years of military service before enrolling in the university.

AFP: Guerrillas Down Plane Carrying 100 Soldiers

BK010916 Hong Kong AFP in English 0851 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Islamabad, July 1 (AFP) — Moslem guerrillas battling communist forces in Afghanistan shot down an Afghan military aircraft near Kabul last Wednesday killing all 100 soldiers on board, Western diplomats said here Tuesday. According to the diplomats, the plane was downed [illegible]ying from Kabul to Qandahar where a joint Soviet-Afgha[illegible]eration was continuing to seize control of the second biggest Afghan city.

There were conflicting reports whether the passengers were Soviet or Afghans. But the diplomats believed that the troops killed were most likely Afghans.

The sources also reported the shooting down of a Soviet helicopter gunship near Ghazni, a historic Afghan city in the south, but gave no further details.

The diplomats, quoting sources in Kabul, reported heavy air activity at Kabul airport last week with a number of sorties by Ilyushin-76 aircraft and other Soviet-built warplanes moving north and south.

Reports from Afghan sources in Kabul suggested that the Soviets have mounted another offensive in the northern guerrilla bastion, the Panjsher Valley.

If confirmed, this would be their ninth attempt to wrest control of the strategic valley from the forces of rebel leader Ahmed Shah Masud who earlier blunted successive similar attempts since the Soviet military invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

Security Forces Capture Missiles, Warheads

LD302357 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Quoting a country's security force official, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that successful operations carried out today in the surroundings of Omara Khan village, near [name indistinct], resulted in 10 surface-to-surface rockets, their 10 warheads, spare parts and control system — which were ready to be used to disturb the peaceful life of our noble people — being seized by the country's security forces.

BAKHTAR on Clashes Between Baluchis, Iranian Forces

LD290701 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 29 Jun 86

[Text] Kabul, June 28, BAKHTAR: As a result of heavy clashes between the Baluchis and the armed forces of the regime of Iran, in Mirchawa, Kenarak, Chah Bahar, Sakhas and Sarawan areas of Zahedan, seven soldiers of the armed forces of Iran were killed and another six were seriously injured, reports reaching BAKHTAR say.

In another clash which occurred in Sar District, north east of Zahedan between Baluchis and Iranian Armed forces four soldiers of the Iranian army were killed in all these clashes, only one person was injured from the Baluchis side, the reports added.

The reactionary regime of Iran has started searching the homes of the brave Baluchis in Sistan and Baluchistan recently. The reports further added that a large number of innocent peoples including 30 militant Baluch leaders have been arrested and ten people were executed without trial by the Iranian regime. Haji Ghafur, who had surrendered to the Iranian authorities under the so-called "amnesty decree", is also reported to be among those executed.

The wicked action of the Iranian authorities has caused deep anger and indignation among the residents of Sistan and Baluchistan, which is taking the form of armed clashes with the armed forces of the regime.

Trade Union Chief Views Results of Visit to USSR

LD010912 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] 'Abdol Satar Pordeli, the DRA trade union's Central Council president, who visited [date not specified] the USSR at the head of a delegation at the invitation of the USSR trade unions, stated during a news conference: We express great gratitude to the trade unions and all the people of the Soviet Union for their all-round assistance for the Afghan toilers. Our relations have completely fraternal characterestics and the Soviet Union, like a elder brother, helps us to defend the gains of the April Revolution, in the economic sector and in consolidating and training national cadres. More than 6,000 Afghan children have been on recreation trips to the Soviet Union's pioneer camps and some 1,500 more of our children will be sent to these camps this year.

Satar Pordeli also said that experiences of the Soviet trade unions, in particular in organizing competitions between work groups, are of great value to us. He said that the DRA and the Soviet Union are in [words indistinct] in the international area. The Central Council of the Afghan trade unions resolutely defends the Soviet Union's foreign policy toward the fundamental solution of the international situation and the program of nuclear disarmament which the CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev forwarded on 15 January this year.

Satar Pordeli thanked the Soviet trade unions for their support for the DRA efforts toward a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. He said the complete cessation and the non-resumption of any armed interference by the reactionary and imperialist powers in the DRA's internal affairs will constitute the basis of such a solution.

The head of the Afghan delegation expressed satisfaction with the result of their meetings in the Soviet Union during which a program of all-round future expansion of cooperation between the fraternal trade unions. [sentence as heard]

BAKHTAR Observer on Mujahidin Meeting With Reagan

LD300655 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0534 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Kabul, June 29 BAKHTAR: A political observer of BAKHTAR writes: The meeting of President Reagan with the ringleaders of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries has roused the anxiety of progressive politicians of Pakistan.

Khan Abdul Walid Khan, leader of the National Democratic Party of Pakistan, has expressed anxiety on the press release issued by White House after the meeting of Ronald Reagan with the ringleaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries which assuring the U.S. support to the bandits.

Walid Khan has evaluated the meeting as a new step in the direction of intensifying the imperialistic undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and as a major obstacle on the path of political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. He condemned the Ziaul Haq regime as the conductor of the aggressive designs of the Reagan administration in the region. Abdul Walid Khan stressed that the Islamabad regime has turned the Pakistani territory as a training base of the Afghan counterrevolutionary terrorists, and Zia is gambling with the future of the country and people of Pakistan for the preservation of the U.S. interests.

The Washington administration is giving wider scope to the undeclared war against Afghanistan. It is making use of the Islamabad regime and the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands not only as instruments of terror against the DRA but against the opponent of the regime also.

The mischievous meeting of the U.S. president with the criminal ringleaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries and the subsequent visit of the prime minister of Pakistan with the U.S. authorities which entails the flow of vast military aids, even further aggravate the situation in the region. The development of the situation shows that the meeting of the leaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands with Ronald Reagan, the U.S. President and the simultaneous visit of Pakistani premier and foreign minister to Washington were not accidental. The ominous plans of Washington administration for Islamabad and the counter-revolutionary bands were formulated.

The process of talks between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan is in progress for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. All the peace-loving forces, Pakistani statesmen and the state of the DRA are awaiting a constructive result of the talks. But the world public understand that Washington administration always creates serious obstacles in the process. The statesmen and the peace-loving and progressive forces of Pakistan describe the ominous visits of the leaders of the bands and those of the Islamabad regime to Washington as measures for the deterioration of the situation in the region. Right now, the Afghan counter-revolution receive the most modern American weapons and "Stinger" missiles via Islamabad.

Indeed, Washington administration does not want the situation around Afghanistan to be solved through political channel. On the contrary, it is looking for fresh ways to intensify the imperialist undeclared war against the DRA and is using its allies for this purpose, more particularly the Ziaul Haq regime of Pakistan.

The progressive statesmen of Pakistan and the progressive forces of the region are condemning the conspiratory visits which have taken place among Reagan administration, Islamabad and the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands. They ask Washington administration not to play with the destiny of the people of the region.

AFP: President Leaves for 3-Day Visit to Nepal

BK010625 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Dhaka, July 1 (AFP) — Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad left here Tuesday for a three-day visit to the neighbouring Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal.

Lieutenant-General Ershad is to hold talks with King Birendra and meet Nepal's newly-elected government leaders. He is accompanied by his wife and by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and senior government officials.

A senior official said the talks between President Ershad and King Birendra would cover bilateral relations and important regional and international issues of mutual interest.

But most importantly, he said the two leaders would discuss the future direction of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and its achievements since the forum was launched at a summit in Dhaka last December.

President Ershad's visit to Nepal, his second since 1982 after he assumed power, is part of a six-nation tour the Bangladesh leader planned as the current chairman of SAARC.

He visited Bhutan in June and is scheduled to travel to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives later in July.

National Budget, Plan for 1986-87 Announced

BK280347 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 28 Jun 86

[Excerpt] The national budget for the next fiscal year is to have a revenue of 4,468 crore taka and revenue expenditure of 3,740 crore taka. This leaves a revenue surplus of 728 crore taka which will be utilized for financing the Annual Development Program [ADP].

Announcing the budget at the old Sangsad Bhawan [parliament building] over radio and television yesterday, finance adviser M. Syedazzaman, said the ADP for the next year provides for the expenditure of 4,764 crore taka.

The ADP has been prepared on the basis of objectives and strategy of the Third 5-year Plan, the prevailing development stance, and on the basis of relative priority of various sectors.

Of this about 931 crore taka have been allocated for agriculture, rural development, flood control and water resources development. Allocation for the industries sector is 710 crore taka. For production, transmission and distribution of power, the allocation will be 689 crore taka. Transport and communication sector will have the allocation of 436 crore taka, the education sector 253 crore taka, and 375 crore taka have been earmarked for the upazillas [subdistricts].

The finance adviser said total outlay in the food budget for the next fiscal year has been estimated at 1,423 crore taka including 652 crore taka as the valuation of food expected to be received under foreign aid. Total food imports during the year is estimated at 1.5 million tons and the target of domestic procurement is half a million tons.

The agriculture sector will be given special support next year to increase investment, expansion of irrigation facilities and the reduction in price of fertilizer and diesel oil.

The finance adviser said the import target for the next fiscal year has been fixed at $2,552 million. Special efforts will have to be made to increase the production and export of non-traditional items to reach a level of at least $1 billion in export earnings during the next financial year. He said it is estimated that the GDP growth rate will be about 5.2 percent in the next fiscal year. The agriculture sector is expected to grow by 3.6 percent, industry sector by 10.3 percent, energy and gas sector by 26 percent, transportation sector by 6.2 percent, and growth for other sectors is estimated at 4 percent.

The finance adviser expressed the hope that the momentum generated in the economy during the current year with the expansion of investment in various sectors and reform policies in several areas is expected to be maintained in the next fiscal year in a more favorable way.

The new fiscal measures announced in the budget will fetch an additional revenue of 372 crore taka. It includes 209 crore taka from customs duty and sales tax, over 90 crore taka from excise duty and more than 38 crore taka from income tax.

Commerce Minister Announces 1986-87 Export Policy

BK300729 Dhaka BSS in English 0650 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Dhaka June 30 BSS — A taka $1,000 million export target for the fiscal year 1986-87 was announced here yesterday by the Commerce Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed. Announcing the salient features of the new export policy over radio and television, he said that out of total export earnings the share of jute and jute goods would be 512 million dollars and that of other items 488 million dollars.

Kazi Zafar said that the narrowing of exporting gap between export and import, generation of exportable surplus by stepping up production of exportable goods, expansion of additional facilities to the exporters and simplification of export produres were the main objectives of the next year's export policy.

Continuing Reportage on Situation in Punjab State

'Terrorists' Confess to Pakistani Training

BK010302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] In Punjab, three suspected terrorists surrendered in the Dera Baba Nanak sector of Gurdaspur District yesterday. Later, they confessed to have received training in subversive activities in Pakistan.

In Sangrur District, one person was seriously injured when two gunmen fired at him.

The director general of the Punjab police, Mr Ribeiro, is now in Tarn Taran in Amritsar to inquire into the death of Ragi Harbhajan Singh. He was allegedly killed in an encounter with the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] a couple of days ago.

Meanwhile, curfew in Nakodar town in Jullundur District has been relaxed for 12 hours from 0700 today.

'Terrorists' Killed in Jullundhur

BK010855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] In Punjab, three persons including two terrorists were killed and two police bodyguards were injured when three scooter-borne terrorists opened fire at a shop in Model Town in Jullundhur this morning.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the terrorists who had come to attack the Congress-I leader, Mr D.K. Khullar, fired at his two police guards and injured them. The injured bodyguards returned fire in which two terrorists were injured and one person was killed. One passerby was also injured. The two terrorists later succumbed to their injuries. Third accomplice, however, managed to escape. One sten gun, one revolver, ten cartridges were recovered from the terrorists.

Two more terrorists were killed and one injured in two separate incidents in Amritsar and Ferozepur Districts since last night.

Memorandum of Settlement on Mizo Issue Signed

BK010402 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] A memorandum of settlement to solve the Mizo issue was signed in New Delhi last night between the union home secretary, Mr R.D. Pradhan; the leader of the Mizo National Front [MNF], Mr Laldenga; and the chief secretary of Mizoram, Mr Lalkhama. The chief minister of Mizoram, Mr Lal Thanhawla, was present.

Under the agreement, the MNF will take necessary steps within the agreed time frame to end all underground activities to restore peace and normalcy in Mizoram. It will bring out all underground personnel of the MNF with their arms, ammunition, and equipment to ensure their return to civil life. The MNF also undertakes to abjure violence and generally help in the process of restoration of normalcy. The MNF will amend its constitution to make it conform to the provisions of law.

The Center, on its part, will initiate measures to confer statehood on the union territory subject to the other stipulations contained in the memorandum of settlement. The MNF also undertakes not to extend any support to Tripura Tribal National Volunteers — TNV — People's Liberation Army of Manipur — PLA — or any other such groups by way of training, supply of arms, or by providing protection or any other manner.

The agreement points out that the Center will take steps for the rehabilitation of underground MNF personnel coming overground. This will be done after considering the scheme proposed in this regard by the Mizoram government. Necessary legislative and administrative measures will be undertaken to confer statehood on Mizoram. The process of holding elections to the assembly will be initiated soon after the bill for conferring statehood becomes law. The elections will be held when the president is satisfied that normalcy has returned to the territory.

The memorandum says that the question of unification of Mizo-inhabited areas of other states to form one administrative unit was raised by the MNF delegation. It was pointed out to them on behalf of the Center that Article 3 of the Constitution prescribes the procedure in this regard. But the government cannot make any commitment on this.

The memorandum refers to the earnest efforts made by the Center to bring to an end the disturbed conditions in Mizoram and to restore peace and harmony.

Efforts to settle the Mizo problem were initiated by the late prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi. It says a series of discussions were held with Mr Laldenga on the acceptance of two conditions — namely, cessation of violence by MNF and holding of talks within the framework of the Constitution of India. It points out that settlement was reached on various issues during the course of the talks which resulted in the signing of the memorandum.

Our correspondent says the Mizo accord represents a significant step toward a peaceful solution of the 25-year-old problem in the country's northeastern region. In conformity with the aspirations of the Mizo tribes, the central government created the Union Territory of Mizoram in 1972. The problem, however, was not resolved and 8 years later an agreement was reached for a negotiated settlement between the Center and the MNF. In 1976, the front, led by Mr Laldenga, agreed to renounce its secessionist policy and expressed its desire to find an amicable settlement within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

Talking to All India Radio [AIR] correspondent, Mr Laldenga described the memorandum of settlement as the beginning of a new era for the people of Mizoram. In a statement in New Delhi, the chief minister, Mr Lal Thanhawla, described it as a historic event. He said he will soon vacate his seat as chief minister.

He appealed to those who are still underground to come forward and join the national mainstream. He also urged them to work for the unity and integrity of the country.

Mr Pradhan, who laid down the office as home secretary yesterday, has said that the accord was the result of mutual trust, goodwill, and a desire to work in faith to bring peace and stability in Mizoram. The governor of Assam and Meghalaya, Mr Bhisma Narain Singh, welcomed the accord. He said it has opened a new chapter of mutual trust.

The AIR AIJAL correspondent reports that as soon as the news about the signing of the accord was broadcast over AIR AIJAL and Doordarshan [television], the whole of Mizoram went wild with joy. In Aijal, bursting of crackers, ringing of bells, and lighting fire on hilltops marked the occasion.

Heavy Water Leak in Madras Atomic Plant 'Mopped Up'

BK281620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 86

[Text] In Madras, all 7 tons of heavy water that leaked into a vault in the reactor building of the Madras atomic power station on Wednesday have been mopped up. It is now being stored for reprocessing and further use. This was disclosed by the power station director, Mr K.S.N. Murti, in Madras today. He said that officials of the state pollution control board, who visited the plant, were satisfied that no radioactivity was noticed following the leak.

INDIAN EXPRESS Praises Continued Glacier Talks

BK271401 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 86 p 6

[Editorial:""Thaw Some, Freeze Some"]

[Text] If the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan, who met in Delhi last week, failed to break new ground in their discussions on the disputed Siachen Glacier area in the high Karakoram, they have sensibly agreed to continue their efforts at a third round planned in Islamabad in due course.

This forbidding terrain at 18,000-20,000 feet was earlier the scene of some incidents with India occupying the glacier up to its head at Indra Col and Pakistan seeking to dislodge this force on the ground that it falls within its side of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

India challenges this interpretation and, on the contrary, claims to have forestalled Pakistani efforts to seize this area and extend its control even further east in violation of the post-1971 protocol on the Line of Control which, after being demarcated on the ground up to a point marked NJ 9842 on the maps, is defined as proceeding due north to the glaciers.

The conflict has occurred in the undemarcated region from which the Siachen Glacier debouches into the fertile Nubra Valley which India has all along administered. Rather than risk any further clashes, it would be prudent on both sides to maintain the status quo until such time as a negotiated settlement is reached.

This is important because new areas of tension can only further undermine relations between the two countries which are already under considerable strain following India's charges of Pakistani interference in India's internal affairs by aiding and abetting those seeking to destabilise Punjab. Pakistan denies the charge but this has not been found convincing on the Indian side.

As a result, the work of the Joint Commission and further progress on trade and exchange have been held up and talks on working out an agreed draft on a treaty of non-aggression. Friendship and cooperation remain stalled.

The delayed action taken by the Lahore administration over the weekend in apprehending six Canadian Sikhs who for the second time assaulted Indian Embassy officials liaising with Indian pilgrims who had gone to Nankana Saheb and other shrines in Pakistan fetched an Indian protest and certainly betrays laxity if not low-level connivance on the part of the authorities since there was ample forewarning of possible mischief. Little pinpricks are not going to help either side and the present impasse needs to be broken sooner rather than later.

If part of India's calculation lies in waiting for Miss Benazir Bhutto, this may be an uncertain policy to pursue. It may be quite some time before the situation changes decisively and, if and when it does, Pakistan's stance on the fundamentals of relations with India may not undergo too drastic a change merely because of a change at the top.

President Reiterates Policy on Afghan Refugees

BK301617 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that the government is determined to take care of the Afghan refugees until they go back to their homeland in dignity and honor. He was addressing the Frontier Corps soldiers during the corps; annual week-long celebrations at (Dashmat) in North Waziristan today.

The president said subversive activities being carried out in various parts of the country at the instructions of some self-interested elements are aimed at creating misunderstanding between the local population and the Afghan refugees, but our people will not allow any such effort to succeed.

The president commended the magnanimity of the people of Baluchistan, North-West Frontier Province and the tribal areas and said they have provided shelter to the Afghan people on humanitarian grounds and on love and affection for Islam.

General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said in view of the current situation on the country's borders, the duties of the Frontier Corps soldiers have further increased. He added that the due to trust reposed in you by the nation, we are living a tranquil life. He praised the corps performance in 1965 and 1971 [wars with India].

National Assembly Briefed on Indian Border Violations

BK300639 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] The National Assembly was informed during the question hour that the investigating report on the belly-landing of a Pakistan International Airlines plane at Islamabad airport has been received and the federal government is reviewing it.

Parliamentary Secretary of Defense and Civil Aviation Colonel Herbert, retired, in reply to a question said that the House will be apprised of details of the report soon after it is reviewed. However, according to the board of investigators, the accident was due to human error as the plane's crew failed to lower the landing gear; it was not the result of a technical defect or sabotage.

The House was informed that the Indian forces committed 379 border violations along the Jammu and Kashmir Line of Control between April last year and 3 May this year.

Inflation Rate Declines During Last 11 Months

BK300445 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] The average inflation rate during first 11 months of the current fiscal year dropped to the level of 4.9 percent compared with 7.5 percent during the same period last year.

This is the lowest inflation rate in well over a decade, except for the year 1982-83. This was disclosed at the 35th annual general meeting of the Institute of Bankers in Karachi yesterday.

While reviewing the country's economic situation, the deputy governor of the State Bank said that the average annual growth rate of gross national product during the last 5-year-plan period, which was 6.6 percent, further improved during the first 3 years of the current plan period and rose to 6.9 percent.

The gross national product during the current fiscal year ending today is estimated at a 7.5 percent increase against the target of 6.5 percent.

Per capita income will increase by 4 percent compared with last year.

The latest actual figures show that money circulation remained at the level of 22.5 billion rupees — more than the whole year's estimate of 18.6 billion rupees.

The country's debt during this period also recorded an increase of 19.9 billion rupees.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Kill 21, Capture 40

BK011059 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] In Afghanistan, 10 Soviet-Kabul troops are reported to have been killed and many others injured in a fierce battle with the mujahidin in Karabagh area of Ghazni Province.

Another report says 11 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed when the mujahidin launched an attack on a military post in Samangan Province.

Forty Kabul troops deployed in the post were captured and large quantity of arms was also seized by the mujahidin in the encounter.

SRI LANKA

ENLF Invites Other Tamils To Consider New Proposals

BK301359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] The Eelam National Liberation Front [ENLF], comprising three Tamil militant groups, has decided to invite three other Tamil groups for considering the Sri Lankan Government's latest proposals to solve the ethnic issue. The groups invited by the ENLF are the Tigers of Tamil Eelam [as heard], the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam and the Tamil United Liberation Front.

The ENLF met soon after receiving the copies of the proposals from the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, yesterday.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, a spokesman of the front said the group hopes to thrash out a common front within a week.

Chief Monks To Evaluate Proposals

BK010621 Hong Kong AFP in English 0600 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 1 (AFP) — The chief monks of the two leading Buddhist chapters here were presented Monday with proposals on provincial autonomy to end the Tamil ethnic conflict, the largely state-owned *Daily News* reported Tuesday.

The proposals were sent by President Junius Jayewardene, who asked to meet the two chief monks before July 15 when the Political Parties Conference (PPC) to discuss the peace plan reconvenes. He would like to obtain the views of the monks before the resumption of the PPC, the paper said.

Some members of the Buddhist clergy earlier opposed the setting up of provincial councils which would give the Tamils a larger share of power over their own affairs, saying this could lead to secession. One of the chief monks reportedly told Lands Minister Gamini Dissanayake that the proposals, while ensuring the rights of Tamils, should also protect the Sinhalese.

Meanwhile, President Jayewardene has approved regulations to set up a commission to eliminate discrimination and to monitor fundamental rights. The regulations would allow anyone who felt discriminated against for race, religion, language, caste or other reasons to complain to the commission which would try conciliation, Hector Jayewardene said Monday.

The president's brother said the commission would not deprive persons of recourse to the courts on the same issues.

Further Reportage on Clashes With Tamils

Death Toll 15 in Kilinochchi

BK290659 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jun 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, reports reaching Colombo from the northern district of Kilinochchi say that at least 15 civilians were killed in bombing and crossfire as the security forces engaged Tamil militants in a battle yesterday. Most of the civilians killed were believed to be stranded bus passengers making their way toward Jaffna.

Eyewitnesses who reached Jaffna from the area last night told our Colombo correspondent Piaban Majumder that an Army contingent was given air cover by bombers and helicopters as they made their way from Kilinochchi Army camp to Paranthan junction. The operation lasted about 3 hours from the noon time.

7 'Terrorists' Killed in Jaffna

BK301119 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Seven terrorists were shot dead by the security forces at (Parandana) in Jaffna District following a gunbattle after the terrorists exploded two culverts in the area. The first culvert was blown up by terrorists at (Jayadikulam) while the second one went off on the Parandana-Mullaitivu road. Security sources said that the Army, on hearing the second explosion, had rushed to the scene where the battle took place. Two soldiers were injured in the battle.

In a separate incident at Navatkuli, two terrorists died after an exchange of mortar fire with the security forces. The dead terrorists in the latter incident are reported to have been active members of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

Meanwhile, according to the latest reports reaching Colombo, the terrorists in Jaffna have begun to harass the Muslims in the area.

Bomb Blast in Vavuniya

BK301321 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Four civilians were killed and 19 others wounded when a time bomb planted by the terrorists exploded near a bus stand in Vavuniya this morning. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that three of the dead were Sinhalese and the other a Tamil. Among the (?19) wounded were 9 Sinhalese, 7 Tamils, and 3 Muslims. Two vehicles parked nearby were also damaged.

Khamene'i Receives New Czechoslovak Ambassador

LD301356 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — The new ambassador of Czechoslovakia to Tehran, Milan Macha, handed over his credentials to President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday.

The new ambassador conveyed warm greetings of the Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak and talked about the long-standing friendly relations between the two countries.

President Khamene'i welcomed expansion and strengthening of bilateral ties and said that in the post-revolutionary period, the Islamic Republic of Iran has strengthened its relations with East European countries.

The president referred to Iran's policy of neither East nor West and added that this policy laid the foundation of Iran's relations with other countries. He said that bilateral relations with Czechoslovakia could be further expanded.

Velayati, Japanese Foreign Ministry Official Confer

LD292030 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 29 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — Visiting political director general of Japan's Foreign Ministry Wasuke Miyake met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday, and submitted him a message from his Japanese counterpart Shintaro Abe.

During the meeting Miyake expressed Mr Abe's willingness to meet his Iranian counterpart in the near future. The two sides also discussed expansion of mutual relations and regional and international developments.

Mikaye arrived here Friday. He had vistied Iran in April 1985.

Reportage on Visit of Pakistani Deputy Minister

Meets With Larijani

LD291957 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 29 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — Visiting Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Shahriyar Khan conferred here Sunday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Economic and International Affairs Javad Larijani on the Afghan issue and Iran's viewpoints towards solving the problem.

At the meeting, Larijani said Iran believes that the Soviet Union had reached the conclusion that the Afghan issue would remain unsolved as long as its forces stayed in that country. He said that Iran has been opposed to U.S. interference in the issue from the very beginning. "U.S. intervention would be a negative factor in the struggle of Muslim Afghan mujahidin and would prevent them from finding a solution" he said.

Non-interference of Eastern and Western powers is a principal step towards finding a solution, Larijani said, and after the withdrawal of Soviet forces, the establishment of a popular non-aligned government in that country could be discussed.

The Pakistani deputy foreign minister arrived here Saturday night for talks on international issues and on coordinating polices of the two countries for the forthcoming meeting of non-aligned summit due to be held in Zimbabwe in late summer.

Meets With Sheykh ol-Eslam

GF300809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the visiting Pakistani deputy minister for international affairs, Mr Shahriyar Khan, yesterday met our country's deputy foreign minister for political affairs, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam. At this meeting Mr Shahriyar Khan explained Pakistan's stance and the measures taken regarding developments at the indirect Geneva talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan concerning the solution of the Afghanistan issue.

Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam elaborated on our country's viewpoint on the issue and insisted on the need for a withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan as soon as possible. He said: Afghanistan's future destiny should be decided only by the Muslim people of the country, without intervention by foreign forces. Referring to the recent U.S. initiatives regarding the Afghan issue, he said: Such acts can only result in hampering the Muslim Afghan nation's struggle. He stressed that the Afghanistan issue should be resolved outside the pale of Eastern and Western issues.

During this meeting discussions were held on the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in the economic and political fields. It was agreed that the two countries would accelerate their efforts in this regard. The two sides expressed complete unanimity on the continuation and expansion of collaboration between the two countries for the adoption of a harmonious stance at the upcoming session of the heads of the Nonaligned Movement member countries in Harare.

Confers With Musavi, Velayati

LD010857 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Shahriyar Khan met and conferred with Prime Minister Musavi this morning. Referring to the friendly relations between Iran and Pakistan, he submitted a report to Prime Minister Musavi on the indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva. He said: Pakistan is prepared to expand its cooperation with Iran in diplomatic, cultural, economic, regional, and international fields.

While expressing gratitude for Pakistan's stance toward Iran, the prime minister stressed: The Muslim people of Afghanistan must play the principal role in all solutions. We believe that the Afghan issue can be solved without the interference of nonregional powers. He added: We seek an independent, Islamic regime in

Afghanistan that would have good relations with all its neighbors.

Shahriyar Khan also had a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today during which he conveyed a message from Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan. During the meeting, the Pakistani deputy foreign minister submitted a report on the last round of talks in Geneva in connection with the Afghan issue.

While describing Iran's fundamental stance in this connection, Velayati emphasized: The people of Afghanistan must play a principal role in any move or solution.

It was agreed during the meeting that the two countries' foreign ministers should meet to coordinate the two countries' policies at the forthcoming nonaligned summit meeting.

Commentary Views Soviet, U.S. Role in Afghanistan

LD010843 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Unattrributed commentary: "Pakistan's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Visits Iran"]

[Excerpts] Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Shahriyar Khan, who is currently in Tehran, conferred with his Iranian counterpart Dr Javad Larijani at the Foreign Affairs Ministry yesterday. In the course of the meeting, the Pakistani official expounded his country's stands vis-a-vis the Afghan problem and the latest developments at the Geneva indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Noting the situation in Afghanistan and the tendency [as heard] of the Soviets to leave the country, Larijani once again explained Iran's stands regarding a solution to the Afghan crisis. Larijani's comments partly reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to U.S. involvement in the Afghan problem, calling such intervention a negative factor in the Muslim Afghan mujahidin's struggles. He also stressed: Noting the USSR's anxiety at an Afghan government with tendencies towards the United States, the first step for resolving this problem would be to remove the issue from the domain of East-West issues.

President Reagan's recent meeting with a number of Afghan mujahidin leaders, followed by another meeting with Chirac in Paris, which was organized to attract more financial and political support for the same groups, caused some anxiety. This apprehension was felt by other strugglers who have always adhered to an independent path in the popular fight in Afghanistan. Furthermore, the recent rumors indicating an agreement at the Geneva talks, staged without the representatives of the Afghan people and held between Pakistan and the Kabul regime, have increased the apprehension that the genuine struggle in Afghanistan is being slaughtered at the altar of the political processes of the superpowers.

The primary worry concerns the means and mechanism of ending the USSR's intervention in the region and the return to normalcy, disallowing direct or indirect entrance by a foreign power, particularly by an imperialist one, following the exit of another. It is clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the withdrawal of the Soviet forces and the return of rule to the Muslim people of Afghanistan, but it will take stands to confront any imposition of supremacy by another superpower which may result after the introduction of certain solutions to the problem.

Cultural, Tourism Agreement With Syria Signed

LD291913 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 29 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri told IRNA Sunday that Iran and Syria had recently signed an agreement to expand bilateral cultural and tourism exchanges over the next three years.

Mansuri, who was speaking on his recently concluded visits to Syria, Ethiopia and Sudan, said that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had assured him of his country's commitment to promote such ties between the two countries.

On Tehran-Addis Ababa cooperation, Mansuri said that Iran and Ethiopia share identical views at international organizations and that Ethiopian officials back Iran on most global issues as well as on its positions in the Iraq-Iran war. Iraq's use of chemical weapons has also been condemned by the government of Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, he said.

On Iran-Sudan relations, Mansuri said that Iran had recently re-opened its embassy in Khartoum and that Sudan's would shortly be re-opened in Tehran.

Mansuri said that the Sudanese people are all for an Islamic government in that country despite the existence of different currents there.

Commentary on Current Trends in Foreign Policy

GF280839 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Jun 86

[Commentary by the Central News Unit research group: "Active Diplomacy Is Imperative for a Presence and Its Success on the International Scene"]

[Text] On the basis of our country's Constitution, the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy follows the dictum of neither East nor West, and our political shuttling and diplomatic activity with all countries is geared accordingly.

In the past week, our foreign minister and other officials of the Foreign Ministry visited European, Asian, African, and Latin American countries. During his visit to Nicaragua, Dr Velayati met President Daniel Ortega and referred to our country's stance vis-a-vis the upcoming Nonaligned Movement [NAM] session and discussed reviving NAM's activity.

In his meeting last Monday with the Cuban President Mr Fidel Castro, Dr Velayati discussed in detail the scope for increasing bilateral ties, expansion of mutual cooperation and relations, and coordination among international organizations and the next

NAM session of heads of state in the month of Mordad [23 July-22 August] in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital. One manifestation of the neither East nor West policy -- the most important principle of Iran's foreign policy -- is to have an active presence in the Nonaligned Movement. Iran desires that the movement should adhere to its initial stance formulated by its founders. Refraining from being involved in superpower disputes, resolving the existing political and economic problems of the Third World, and breaking political deadlocks is not only important, but of immense value.

In short, the Islamic Republic of Iran's galvanized diplomatic activitity in the past week was geared toward these stances. During his Cuban visit, Dr Velayati said this about the Latin American crisis: Despite the U.S. domination in this region, we are witnessing a collective and strong movement against it, which is a source of reassurance, because the awakening of the nations in the area will halt the course of aggressive and expansionist U.S. action. Regarding the upcoming NAM session in Harare, he said: The Harare session is significant because the Third World and NAM countries are in the throes of an historical ordeal.

Similarly in the past week, the 78th OPEC session was convened in Yugoslavia with the participation of 13 oil ministers. Oil prices, production ceilings, and quotas for each member were discussed at the session. In this regard, Mr Besharati, the deputy foreign minister, visited Libya and conveyed President Khamene'i's message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In this meeting the Libyan leader once again stressed the continuation of the support of the leadership and nation of the Libyan Jamahiriyah for the Islamic Republic in the imposed war to topple the Ba'thist Saddam regime. During Mr Besharati's Libyan visit, the reduction of the oil prices and the NAM session were also reviewed. He then left for Algeria and submitted a message regarding NAM problems from President Khamene'i to Chadli Bendjedid, the Algerian president.

The visit of Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, the political undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, to Indonesia and his meetings with the president of the country during the past week are also of great importance. During this visit, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam conveyed President Khamene'i's message to the Indonesian president on the need for strengthening mutual relations and collaboration on an international level with regard to oil and the NAM session.

Also, Mr 'Adeli, adviser to our foreign minister, who headed a delegation to Nigeria in connection with the OPEC and NAM summit sessions, held talks and exchanged views with the country's officials on the plot to reduce oil prices and the need for a unified stand on this issue.

In this series of visits, we may also mention the visit by Mr Mansuri, the deputy minister for consular and cultural affairs of our country's Foreign Ministry, to Sudan. He discussed consular and cultural matters during his visit. In light of the above, the campaign against the plan for the reduction of oil prices is tantamount to a struggle against world oppression — a plan which was formulated by the United States and Great Britain -- and Saudi Arabia was the tool for its implementation. This issue is a most fundamental one, the political and economic dimensions of which embrace the issue of the imposed war. This is because the reactionary governments and agents of world oppression are striving to preserve the decrepit Saddam by exerting political and economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This matter is of momentous importance to them. They are even prepared to shelve their own economic plans due to the reduction of oil prices.

The stepping up of the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomacy and the visits by Foreign Ministry officials is of extreme significance in light of the OPEC session convened last Wednesday. The bold overtures and the powerful activity by the Islamic Republic of Iran's system in the international political and economic arena is indicative of the metamorphosis of the Third World, which is of immense consequence to us. In this regard, the adopting of a concerted and unified stance with other countries regarding the prominent international issues is also of supreme significance.

The NAM conference scheduled to be held in Harare in July and August is momentous for the survival of the Third World countries. It is expected that the necessary coordination in the movement will culminate in the adoption of correct decisions which will benefit the Third World countries.

Volunteers Continue To Depart for Battlefronts

GF290519 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Jun 86

[Text] The third Labbayk ya Imam [We respond to you, O imam] convoy from Bakhtaran and the seventh Karbala' wayfarers' convoy, along with the third Labbayk ya Imam convoy from Shahrud comprised of special combative forces, left yesterday for the battlefronts with the Zionist enemy.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,517

LD301621 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 30 Jun 86

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA — Four Iranian civilians were martyred and 24 others wounded when Iraqi war planes bombarded the southwestern city of Shadegan in Khuzestan Province Sunday, said a military communique here Monday. Six houses were also destroyed in the raid.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2517 said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected six cargo ships and oil tankers sailing under foreign flags in the Hormuz Strait Saturday and Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces pounded Iraqi positions in Bayat and Zobeydah, both in the southern fronts, Sunday killing or wounding at least five Iraqi soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements and one munitions dump of theirs, said the communique.

According to the communique a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements demol-

ished during exchange of artillery fire with Iranian forces in Ilam ad Bakhtaran border fronts.

Iranian Muslim combatants, the communique said, despatched patrol units and pounded Iraqi positions in Panjwin and Marivan, northwestern fronts, Sunday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them. They also checked supply and engineering operations of Iraqi forces.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western front Sunday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Naft-e Shah with the Iranian artillery fire prevailing over the enemy's, said the communique.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered Iraqi positions and checked their engineering operations, especially in Nahre-Anbar.

Heavy artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops were reported in Majnun Islands in the southern fronts, according to the communique.

Meanwhile, Iraqi long-range artillery fire hit the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province Sunday inflicting some damage on it.

Ahvaz Announces Mehran Offensive

GF010919 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0913 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: According to the reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, the able Islamic combatants bore down on the positions of the infidel Saddamist enemy last night in the Mehran operational sector and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy's forces.

This will be reported to you, O heroic nation, as soon as we receive the detailed report.

"With the assistance of God, victory is at hand." [Koranic verse]

'Heavy' Iraqi Losses in Mehran

LD010925 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0912 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention, dear listeners please pay attention. According to reports received from Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the powerful combatants of Islam attacked the positions of the infidel Saddamists in the Mehran operational theater last night and inflicted heavy damage and casualties on the enemy forces.

We will inform the heroic nation of the details as soon as the information is available.

'Crucial Points' Liberated in Mehran

LD010950 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Ilam, Ilam Prov., July 1, IRNA — The Islamic forces of Iran in a thrust into the enemy positions in Mehran area, central front on Iran-Iraq border, Monday night inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the Iraqi forces.

The Islamic combatants in this operation made advances deep inside the enemy positions and liberated a number of crucial points in the operational theater. In this attack a large amount of Iraqi armoured equipment were set ablaze.

According to the latest report from the area, the battle is still continuing with the Islamic combatants holding the upper hand.

Iraqi Brigades Headquarters Destroyed

LD011113 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Ilam, July 1, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants destroyed the headquarters of Iraq's 705 and 443 brigades in Mehran region at 1000 (0630 GMT) Tuesday. During the operation the two brigades sustained irreparable casualties and losses. 130 Iraqi troops were captured and transferred behind the fronts.

Muslim combatants had thrusted into Iraqi positions in Mehran region 170 kilometers south east of Baghdad Monday night.

Jet fighters of the Islamic Republic early Tuesday started their activities and pounded Iraqi positions in the region. Iranian helicopters were also busy hunting Iraqi tanks and armoured vehicles, destroying dozens of them.

Iraq's Second Corps is deployed in Mehran region in the western front, scene of heavy clashes in mid-May.

Radio Tehran quoted one captured Iraqi officer as saying that Iraqi commandos have been sent to the region for support.

The Iranian thrust has been code-named "Karbala'" a holy Muslim city 102 kms south of Baghdad.

'Hundreds' of Iraqi Casualties

LD011222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O Hezbollahi ummah, the guardians of the movement of [Imam] Husayn's 'Ashura and ever-alert frontier guards of Islam commenced operation Karbala' I, codenamed: Ya Abolfazl al-'Abbas Adrikni, in the general Mehran sector.

According to this report, in continuation of their relentless battle against world blasphemy and in order to punish the decadent Iraqi forces, the forces of Islam crossed various obstacles, barbed

wire, communication trenches, and numerous minefields last night and attacked the aggressor. They crushed enemy positions, fortifications and equipment in the early hours of the operation.

From this morning until 1326, several enemy units in the sector, dozens of tanks and personnel carriers, and other military equipment were destroyed and hundreds of Iraqi mercenaries were killed or injured.

More than 130 POW's have been transferred behind the lines thus far.

Meanwhile, the wayfarers of the path of monotheism have dealt fatal blows to the Zionist enemy in this operation. According to Central News Unit reports, the excessive traffic of enemy ambulances in the sector testifies to the fact that crushing blows have been dealt to the Zionist forces of Iraq.

So far in the operation, another part of our Islamic homeland has been cleansed of the filthy presence of pagan Saddamists.

500 Iraqis Killed in Mehran Operation

LD011341 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 1 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA — Muslim forces purged dozens of kilometers of Iranian territory of Iraqi forces in a offensive launched in Mehran, 160 kms east of Baghdad, said Khatam ol-Anbiya' military headquarters Tuesday.

At least 500 Iraqi troops were killed and hundreds more wounded during the offensive, codenamed Karbala' I, the headquarters said.

A large number of Iraqi soldiers were also captured out of whom 135 have been transferred behind the fronts.

Khatam-ol-Anbiya' said that Iranian Muslim combatants passed Iraqi mine fields, barbed wire and booby traps to thrust into the Iraqi positions in Mehran. Khatam ol-Anbiya' is the joint operational headquarters of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.